



#13/c DP  
10A 2981 DIV 3/14/3

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re divisional application of:

SHIGERU HATAKENAKA

For: VINEGAR USING SEA WATER AND  
SEASONING THEREOF

Prior Art Unit: 1761

Prior Examiner: Curtis E. Sherrer

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Please amend the above-identified application which is a 37 CFR §1.53(b) divisional application of Serial No. 09/618,306, as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

NE Please cancel claims 1-8 without prejudice.

Rule 1.121 Please add new claims 9-14 as follows:

CNE --9. A method for producing vinegar comprising the steps of:  
absorbing water to a cereal as a material, said cereal selected from the group consisting of  
rice, wheat and corn; and

brewing said material with said water to produce vinegar, wherein at least a portion of  
said water used in said steps comprises at least sea water.

10. A method for producing vinegar comprising the steps of:  
steaming a cereal as a material, said cereal selected from the group consisting of rice,  
wheat and corn, with water; and

brewing said material with said water, wherein at least a portion of said water used in  
said steps comprises sea water.

11. The method for producing vinegar according to claim 9 or 10 further comprising  
the step of desalting sea water from a concentration of  $10^{-1}$  to  $10^{-3}$  %.

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